



Families for Families



Date 2-10-16

Dear Senator Bye Legislative Office Building Room # _____

The budget for The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has been cut by more than \$50 million in the past three years. Most of those cuts have been aimed directly at community based Residential and Day & Employment Services. As a result, in addition to there being more than 2,000 people on the Residential Waiting List, there are now about 100 people on a Day & Employment Waiting List.

The steady erosion of funding for DDS community based services and supports has continued year after year as the need for these services has increased. Connecticut already has one interminable waiting list for DDS community residential supports. *Are we heading down a path to creating another endless waiting list for Day & Employment supports?*

This year families are asking you and legislators to:

1. STOP the proposed \$45 million cut to the DDS budget!
2. Agree on a concrete plan to divert DDS savings into DDS waiting lists and community based supports:
 - This year through better DDS management practices, cuts in excessive overtime, unit consolidations in institutions and public to private group home conversions.
 - Long term by capturing \$87 million in savings from the closure of DDS institutions.
3. Pass a comprehensive "DDS Family's Rights" bill.

This is important to me because:

we have a 19 yr old daughter with disabilities
we see other families struggling to get into
day programs and group homes
we need to speak for those who can't speak
for themselves

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